Equal Rights

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SATURDAY
MAY 27, 1933

MAY 26 1933

An Important Conference Takes Place

After the hearing on the Black-Connery Labor Bill on May 4, Maud Younger, Congressional Chairman of the National Woman's Party, and Helen Forbes of the Government Workers' Council, stopped outside the Caucus Room of the House of Representatives to confer with Congressman Connery. Miss Younger had appeared at the hearing, in behalf of the Woman's Party and six other national organizations, to protest against minimum wage legislation applying to women, but not to their male competitors. Left to right: Hon. William P. Connery of Massachusetts, Chairman of Committee on Labor, Miss Younger and Mrs. Forbes.

Equal Rights

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Annual Dues	$10.00
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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT
"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 1]
[House Joint Resolution Number 1]

Introduced in the Senate March 10, 1933, by SENATOR JOHN G. TOWNSEND, Delaware.

Introduced in the House March 9, 1933, by REPRESENTATIVE LOUIS LUDLOW, Indiana.

A Universal Need

FOR TWO months the members of the National Woman's Party have been looking forward with high anticipation to the date which appears on this issue of EQUAL RIGHTS, namely, May 27, 1933. This date was, and is, important because it marks the commencement of the Conference of Woman's Party workers called to consider ways and means for strengthening the organization in the various States.

The objective of the National Woman's Party, which is the establishment of Equal Rights in every sphere of human activity, is of such profound moment to women everywhere that almost every woman in the United States is a potential member. The purpose of the Conference is to discuss methods for transforming these potential members into actual, dues-paying members of the Woman's Party in the shortest possible time. Already women have had the vote for almost thirteen years, and still they have made but little imprint upon the political life of the nation. The proportion of women to men elected to Congress and the various State Legislatures is a sufficient index of the situation. The voting strength of women is not being utilized and the reason is clear: women possess no adequate political organization for the advancement of their own, and humanity's, interests.

The Democratic Party is dominated by men; the Republican Party is man-made and man-owned; the Socialist Party, the Communist Party and all the other minor parties are controlled root, branch and stock by their masculine creators. Women haven't a chance to secure adequate representation for their especial interests as long as this condition endures. They are outsiders, rank outsiders, in politics, and will remain so until they create a political organization of their own.

This is precisely the opportunity that the National Woman's Party offers to women of every shade of opinion. It is not necessary for women to withdraw from the political party of their choice in order to join the Woman's Party, provided, and this is the crux, that they place Equal Rights above party loyalty. There are Democratic members and Republican members and Socialist members of the Woman's Party, but they are Feminists first, and that makes all the difference.

If a qualified woman were running on another ticket and their own party failed to put up a woman in that district, they would automatically step across party lines and vote for the woman candidate. Similarly they would vote, automatically, for men who supported Equal Rights measures irrespective of their party affiliation.

The Woman's Party does not contemplate putting up candidates for public office on a ticket of its own, but it does look forward to having a hand, and a strong hand, in the nomination and election of candidates for Congress and the various State Legislatures. As a non-partisan organization, trained in political methods, the Woman's Party can become a powerful factor in the political life of the nation. With a trained and disciplined membership of fifty thousand the Woman's Party could enter the political arena confident of success. The Conference is a preliminary step toward securing and training the fifty thousand.

Let Us Use It

ONE of the great tasks of the National Woman's Party, at the present time, is to bring home to the women of our country the fact that they do not now enjoy Equal Rights with men. Curiously enough this was one of the tasks that the members of the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 set themselves, for in that time as in this, women labored under the delusion that they had all the rights they needed.

In 1848 women were still barred from the professions and the franchise, the female mind was deemed incompetent to absorb a college education, a married woman could not legally own any property, she could not make contracts, she had no guardianship rights over her own children, in short she occupied about the position of a chattel slave. It seems incredible in view of the facts that in 1848 most women honestly believed that they had all the rights they needed. It is no more absurd, however, than for a woman in 1933 to declare that she has "all the rights she wants." Few women today realize what their status actually is under the law. Unequal pay for equal or superior work, unequal promotion, discrimination throughout, in politics, in religion, in the home, in business, in the professions. Women no more enjoy Equal Rights with men in 1933 than they did in 1848 except in regard to the right of franchise. Let us use this one and only measure of equality that we have won, in eighty-five years of effort, to secure Equal Rights in every sphere of human activity.

The Conference Program

FINAL arrangements for the Conference of Woman's Party Workers to be held in Washington, D. C., May 27-28, have been completed and every session promises an interesting series of discussions. The first event will be the Hearing on the Equal Rights Amendment, Joint Resolution No. 1, which will be held in the Judiciary Committee Room, on the ground floor of the Capitol, at 10 A. M. on May 27. Florence Bayard Hilles, Chairman of the National Council of the Woman's Party, will present the speakers at the Hearing and will herself address the committee. Delegates to the Conference are particularly requested to attend the Hearing and to communicate with their own members of Congress while they are in Washington. At the close of the Hearing the delegation will proceed en masse to the Garden House of the Dodge Hotel, where all of the sessions of the Conference will take place with the exception of the Sunday afternoon reception which will be held at Alva Belmont House. The program has been arranged with the specific purpose of providing ample opportunity for discussion from the floor. It is hoped that the delegates will literally confer with one another, through public discussion of the many questions that vitally concern the welfare and usefulness of the Woman's Party.

The official program follows:

SATURDAY, MAY 27

11.00 A. M.—
Registration of Delegates. Emalie Neunam, Mabel Hiatt and Florence Elizabeth Kennard, Credentials Committee.

11.30 A. M.—
Business Session, Edith Houghton Hooker, Chairman National Organization Committee, presiding. Address of Welcome by Florence Bayard Hilles, National Chairman. General topics: "Organization Methods" and "Revision of Constitution and By-Laws."

12.30 P. M.—
Luncheon, Dodge Hotel. Amelia H. Walker of Baltimore, Md., Toastmistress. Speakers: Maude Younger, Dora G. Ogle and Agnes Reitz.

2.00 P. M.—
Business Session, Edwina Austin Avery, Chairman Government Workers' Council, presiding. Doris Geiser, Secretary. General topic: "The Congressional Program of the Woman's Party." Speakers: Florence Heath, Abbie E. Owen, Charlotte Bailey, Catherine Capayas, Emma Shaw, and Margaret Rolland. Discussion from the floor.

4.00 P. M.—
Sight-seeing tour for out-of-town delegates. Mrs. George W. Morey, Chairman.

7.00 P. M.—Conference Dinner in Garden House of Dodge Hotel. Speakers: Sr. Don Benjamin Cohen, Chargé d'affaires of Chile; Evelyn Byrd Howell, Marie Presstman, Arabel Clark and Mrs. Jack Stearns Gray.

SUNDAY, MAY 28

In order to provide an opportunity for delegates to attend morning services in the beautiful churches of Washington, there will be no regular business session on Sunday morning. Instead, there will be a series of round-tables on the following topics, held in the Garden House of the Dodge Hotel.

10.30 A. M.—
"Shall the Name of the Woman's Party Be Changed?"
"The Organization Plan."
"Are State Campaigns Worth While?"
Presiding officers: Vee Terrys Perlman of New York, E. A. Doetsch of Maryland, Sara B. Cummings of Pennsylvania.

12.30 P. M.—
Luncheon, Rebekah Greathouse, Toastmistress. Speakers: Ruth Hudnut, Olive Stott Gabriel, and Mrs. Robert F. Hudson.

2.00 P. M.—
Business Session, Ida I. Kloze, presiding. General topics: "How to Organize Industrial Women and 'Protective' Legislation." Speakers: Florence Bayard Hilles, Sophie Nordenholz, Mrs. Marguerite Bugan Bodziak, and Lula E. Powell.

3.30 P. M.—
Report of Resolutions Committee. Rebekah Greathouse, Chairman; Lillian Niccum and Vera Brungart.

4.00 to 6.00 P. M.—
Reception at Alva Belmont House, District of Columbia Branch, Hostess Organization. Mrs. Edwin Lublin, Chairman.

CHAIRMEN OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

General Arrangements — Emilie A. Doetsch.
Local Arrangements — Rebekah Greathouse and Edwina Austin Avery.
Decorations—Mrs. Karl Greene.
Publicity—Helen Forbes.
Resolutions—Rebekah Greathouse.
Conference Dinner—Grace Cochran.
Conference Luncheons — Rebekah Greathouse.
Reception—Mrs. Edwin Lublin.
Membership—Dorothy Ogle.
Equal Rights—Dora G. Ogle.
Literature—Ruth Taunton.
Sight-seeing—Mrs. George W. Morey.
Tickets—Lois Miller.

The Congressional Work of the Woman's Party

THE Woman's Party is working in Congress for three measures, all of which are of the utmost importance both as to immediate and practical consequences for women. These measures are:

I. The Equal Rights Amendment. II. The Equal Rights Reservation with Regard to the Adherence of the United States to the World Court. III. The Equal Rights Nationality Bill.

I. THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

(a) *Text of Amendment.*

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States:

"ARTICLE XX

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

(b) *Introduction in Congress.*

The amendment was introduced in the Senate on March 9, 1933, the opening day of the present extra session of the 73rd Congress, by Senator John G. Townsend, Jr., Republican of Delaware, and is Joint Resolution No. 1 in the Senate. It was introduced in the House by Louis Ludlow, Democrat, of Indiana, and is Joint Resolution No. 1 in the House.

(c) *Hearings.*

A hearing on the amendment will be held before a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 27. A hearing has also been promised in the House, but the date has not yet been fixed.

(d) *Present Status.*
The amendment is now before the Judiciary Committee of both Houses.

II. The Equal Rights Reservation to World Court Adherence by the United States.

(a) *Text of Reservation.*
The proposed Reservation reads:
"Whereas the United States Government refused to be a party to the nationality convention adopted by the First Conference for the Codification of International Law, held under the auspices of the League of Nations at The Hague 1930, one of the grounds of its refusal being that this convention was not based on equality between men and women in nationality rights, for which equality this Government stands; and
"Whereas the Department of State has three times officially stated its disapproval of this convention; first, through the chief delegate to The Hague Conference; second, through the State Department's press release of April 15, 1930; and third, in the Secretary of State's letter of June 23, 1931, to the secretary-general of the League; and
"Whereas American women have joined with the women of the world in demanding from the League the submission of a new convention based on equality; and
"Whereas the League of Nations has so far opposed all efforts by women to secure submission of a new convention; and is, instead, pressing for ratification of the projected, unfair nationality convention; and
"Whereas the rights of American women and the American standard of equality will be endangered if the code of law to be established for the court to apply as its cornerstone; therefore be it
"Resolved, That in the event the United States adheres to the statute of the World Court it shall make the following reservation:
"That the code of law to be administered by the World Court shall not contain inequalities based on sex."

(b) *Introduction in Congress.*
The Reservation was introduced in the Senate on March 30, 1933, by Senator Gerald P. Nye, Republican, of North Dakota, and referred to the Foreign Relations Committee. It was not introduced in the House, as the question of the adherence of the United States to the World Court does not come before the House.

(c) Senator Nye has requested a hearing upon the Reservation by the Foreign Relations Committee if and when the World Court Adherence Resolution comes up. The Foreign Relations Committee has announced that no action will be taken by the committee with regard to the World Court until the President's emergency program has been disposed of and the hearing on the Equal Rights Reservation will therefore be deferred.

(d) *Present Status.*
The Reservation is now before the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate.

III. The Equal Rights Nationality Bill.

(a) *Text of Bill.*
"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that Section 1993 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:
"'Section 1993. Any child hereafter born out of the limits and jurisdiction of the United States, whose father or mother at the time of the birth of such child is a citizen of the United States, is declared to be a citizen of the United States, provided that if one parent is an alien, such alien is not of a race ineligible to citizenship; but the rights of citizenship shall not descend to any such child unless the citizen father or citizen mother, as the case may be, has resided in the United States previous to the birth of such child and unless the child, previous to his eighteenth birthday, returns to the United States and resides therein for at least five years continuously'."
"Section 2. Section 5 of the Act entitled, 'An Act in reference to the expatriation of citizens and their protection abroad,' approved March 2, 1907, as amended, is amended to read as follows:
"'Section 5. That a child born without the United States of alien parents shall be deemed a citizen of the United States by virtue of the naturalization of or resumption of American citizenship by the father or the mother: Provided, that such naturalization or resumption shall take place during the minority of such child: And provided further, that the citizenship of such minor child shall begin at the time such minor child begins to reside permanently in the United States.
"Section 3. A citizen of the United States may upon marriage to a foreigner make a formal renunciation of his or her United States citizenship before a court having jurisdiction over naturalization of aliens, but no citizen may make such renunciation in time of war, and if war shall be declared within one year after such renunciation, then such renunciation shall be void.
"Section 4. Section 2 of the Act entitled, 'An Act relative to the naturalization and citizenship of married women,' approved September 22, 1922, is amended to read as follows:
"'Section 2. That an alien who marries a citizen of the United States, after the passage of this Act, as here amended, or an alien whose husband or wife is naturalized after the passage of this Act, as here amended, shall not become a citizen of the United States by reason of such marriage or naturalization; but, if eligible to citizenship, he or she may be naturalized upon full and complete compliance with all requirements of the naturalization laws with the following exceptions:
"'(a) No declaration of intention shall be required.
"'(b) In lieu of the five-year period of residence within the United States and the one-year period of residence within the State or territory where the naturalization court is held, he or she shall have resided continuously in the United States, Hawaii, Alaska, or Puerto Rico for at least three years immediately preceding the filing of the petition.'
"Section 5. The following Acts and parts of Acts, respectively, are repealed: The Act entitled, 'An Act providing for the naturalization of the wife and minor children of insane aliens, making homestead entries under the land laws of the United States,' approved February 24, 1911; subdivision 'Sixth' of Section 4 of the Act entitled, 'An Act to establish a Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, and to provide for a uniform rule for the naturalization of aliens throughout the United States,' approved June 29, 1906; and Section 8 of the Act entitled, 'An Act relative to the naturalization of citizenship of married women,' approved September 22, 1922, as said section was added by the Act approved July 3, 1930, entitled 'An Act to amend an Act entitled, "An Act relative to naturalization and citizenship of married women," approved September 22, 1922.'

"The repeal herein made of Acts and parts of Acts shall not affect any right or privilege or terminate any citizenship acquired under such Acts and parts of Acts before such repeal."

Additional Section (proposed by Representative Millard).

"A person who has heretofore been a citizen of the United States shall be deemed to be a citizen of the United States notwithstanding marriage to an alien or the loss of United States citizenship by the spouse, unless by affirmative act another nationality has been acquired. A citizen of the United States who is married to, or who may hereafter marry, an alien may make a formal renunciation of United States citizenship before a court exercising naturalization jurisdiction, or before a consul of the United States."

(b) *Introduction in Congress.*

The Equal Rights Nationality Bill was introduced in the Senate by Senator Royal S. Copeland, Democrat, of New York, on March 13, 1933, and is Senate Bill 357. It was introduced in the House by Representative Samuel Dickstein, Democrat, of New York, on March 16, 1933, and is House Resolution 3673.

Hearings.

Hearings were held before the House Immigration Committee and Subcommittee on March 28 and April 10, at which time nine national organizations of women appeared to advocate the passage of the measure. They were the National Woman's Party, the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, the National Association of Women lawyers, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the National Zonta Clubs, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the National Association of Women Physicians, the National Council of Jewish Women, and the Southern Women's National Democratic Organization.

(c) *Present Status.*

The bill was reported out of the House Immigration Committee on May 11 with the recommendation that it be adopted by the House. It is still before the Immigration Committee of the Senate.

Every member of the Woman's Party can help in the present campaign by writing and persuading others to write to her two Senators in support of the Equal Rights Amendment, the Equal Rights Reservation and the Equal Rights Nationality Bill. Similar letters should be sent to the members of the House of Representatives in support of the Equal Rights Amendment and the Equal Rights Nationality Bill, but not the Equal Rights Reservation, since the Reservation is before the Senate only and not before the House.

The Status of Women in Nicaragua

By Enid de Lima

The Chancellor of the Nicaraguan Legation in Washington, D. C., Señora Enid de Lima, was one of the honor guests at the Annual Luncheon of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party, held in Baltimore, Maryland, on May 2. We present the accompanying text of Señora de Lima's address as an interesting page out of current history.

IN talking to you today about the women of Nicaragua, I am speaking, not as a Nicaraguan, but as an American, and therefore what I say is inspired by a genuine admiration and sympathy, born of the many years I have lived in Latin America, rather than by personal or patriotic impulses.

We women in the United States often are inclined to accept without question and without any particular sentiment of gratitude, the conditions of freedom we have found, and it is not until we travel and study the life of women in other countries that we realize the profound difference that our history has made in our social, political and economic existence. Socially, conditions in Latin America approximate very nearly those of our grandmothers, but women here enjoy a very different attitude toward their economic freedom than do our sisters in the South, due perhaps very largely to the difference in historical background.

The conquistadores, after their brutal subjugation of the Indian populations they found in their longed-for El Dorados, sought to recreate for themselves a society as nearly approximating that of the old world as was possible under the new conditions. The new provinces and governments established were feudal aristocracies in every sense, with a submerged caste to perform the menial tasks, under the dominance of the conquering Europeans and their descendants. Even after the declaration of independence from Spain, and the establishment of new governments, inspired by our own, these countries were republics in name only. Great estates, and absentee landlords were the rule, the working classes an ignorant mass of serfs of pure Indian or half-breed origin, with no representation in the government. The ruling class performed no manual tasks themselves and, as a natural corollary, their women occupied the largely ornamental position that women did in feudal times, their protected lives being vastly different from those of our pioneer ancestors.

The church, that brought education, culture and art from the old world to the new, also helped to continued the tradition of the subordination of women from which many countries in Europe are only now emerging, and this influence has been very marked in the lives of Latin American women.

In the upper classes their role has been that of mistress of the home and of large estates, and the exceptional woman has exercised her power and executive ability only indirectly. To the role of housewife and mother, the woman of the lower classes has often added the duties of field hand and laborer but custom and tradition have opposed her acceptance as an equal with men in every field outside the home.

Nicaragua, one of the smallest of all these Latin American republics, is not, however, one of the most backward in these respects, perhaps because she is not so remote from North American influences, perhaps because her troubled history has brought hardship to women as well as to men, forcing them to contend with the realities of existence and proving, at the same time, their capacities. Moreover, her upper classes have always travelled widely and her young men have been educated here and in Europe, and have brought back, I feel sure, besides their diplomas, a greater generosity and respect for the abilities of the opposite sex. And customs are slowly changing, though yet very different from our own.

A few years ago, no girl of good family walked unaccompanied through the streets, and very often there were days when she did not go out at all. There was always plenty to occupy her at home, in sewing, and in the supervision of the numerous but generally inefficient staff of servants. The young girl looked forward eagerly to the recreation afforded by the band concerts that took place once or twice a week, either in late afternoon or early evening. Then, with her prettiest dress and her hair in luxurious plaits over each shoulder, she would go to the park, in company with several other girls of her own age, and promenade slowly around under the trees. The attraction, I am sure, was not the music, although it was often of good quality, but the fact that, as the slow procession of girls

strolled in one direction, the young men of the city would walk leisurely in the other, in groups of two or three, and it was there that the beginnings of romance flourished. Not that the young men ever stopped to speak to the girls—that would have been too bold and compromising an action—but glances as they passed at each end of the park, or a word or two, were sufficient to make these functions of high romantic importance. They still have these "retretas," as they are called, in the old cities of Leon and Granada, but in the new capital of Managua, daily strolls in the late afternoon, in the park by the lake, have taken their place. There is also more freedom and opportunity for conversation between the sexes than in the past. However, now as before, the young girls do not go out alone with the young men, even though engaged to them. The moving pictures have become another real social function and, as with the park concerts, the performance probably holds less attraction for the girls than does the fact that this is still another opportunity to see the young men, if only from a distance. Between every reel of a film, the lights go on and even the chaperonage of their mothers and their cousins and their aunts, cannot prevent the exchange of significant glances. Nor does a young man take a girl to a dance. She goes with her parents or some other married couple. Her program is usually pretty well filled before she even arrives. Many girls prefer not to go unless they have already received sufficient invitations to dance to assure them that they will not spend an evening seated with their chaperones, in the chairs lining the ballroom. After a dance they are usually promptly returned to their places, although there may be exceptions contrived. Needless to say, they are always escorted home by their chaperones.

The girls of the better families are educated in private schools—usually convents—but the public high schools are a credit to the government and, under the direction of some of Nicaragua's most intelligent women, are furnishing a creditable education to the middle classes. There is a recently awakened interest in athletics for girls and tennis and basketball are most popular.

IN the past, once a girl was married she retired very largely from social life, to occupy herself with her new duties as housewife and mother. If she did attend a ball, she danced only with her husband, but now the younger generation is becoming more liberal in this connection. However, and this is, of course, true of all small communities, the married woman must observe the utmost discretion, and she does not accept invitations without her husband, nor is she ever seen in public with another man.

Besides caring for her home and her children, the married woman often has other interests than purely social ones. For instance, if she is the mistress of a large coffee plantation, she is guide and benefactress to the laborers and their numerous families. In the city, she has usually some charitable enterprise to which she devotes a great deal of time. Sewing circles, bazaars, the Red Cross, the Gota de Leche (an organization for distributing free milk), clinics for education in hygiene and for medical care, all depend on the women of the upper classes for support. In times of civil war —and there have been unfortunately many in Nicaragua's stormy history—the women of all classes have done active nursing service. If, in general, the life of the Nicaraguan woman has been confined almost exclusively to the home, and to social activities, let me say that she has performed these duties superlatively well. The strong feeling for family ties that exists, is a tribute to her success and, in good taste and charm, she has few equals.

I have, to this point, been concerned only with the women of the upper classes which, indeed, is natural in discussing a community where class distinctions and family are most important, and if, perhaps, I seem to have touched only upon the more frivolous aspects of the Nicaraguan woman's life, I may say that, until recently, they have had little opportunity to interest themselves in other directions. What they have so accomplished I shall speak of later.

THE women of the lower classes, except when domestic servants, are also dependent economically on their men but they do more than their share of hard labor under the very primitive conditions that prevail in the poorer homes and farms. During the coffee harvest season, women are employed as pickers, and in the few small factories, such as the cigarette and soap factories and textile mills, there are numbers of women operators. In the cities, there is a considerable middle class finding employment in the shops and telephone exchanges, for example, but here, and in the lower class as well, is reflected the same old idea of woman as an inferior and as a possession that we find in the upper circles.

Nevertheless, there are certain factors to be observer that point to a definite transition in this regard:

In the first place, women in Nicaragua are not as handicapped legally as in many other Latin American countries. It is true they do not have the right to vote, which seems a primary symbol of equality, and they do lose their nationality upon marriage to a foreigner. On the other hand, they have full property and contractual rights after marriage, which are denied them in many other countries. The civil code places the obligation for support of the children upon both father and mother, and in all matters concerning their welfare the mother must be consulted, although the father, as head of the family, establishes its domicile and is especially charged with the duty of protecting the children. Husband and wife are equally responsible for the support of the other, in case of necessity, and their rights as regards legal separation and divorce are practically the same.

Furthermore, women are not legally barred from any profession, except the law, and many women have taken advantage of their opportunities and attended the universities, obtaining degrees in medicine and pharmacy, but most of them have found the greatest opportunity in the teaching profession.

There is, moreover, a strong suffrage movement at the present time, and it is thought not unlikely that it will obtain success in the near future. There is no real prejudice against women holding public office as has been proved notably by the fact that in 1924, one of Nicaragua's most distinguished women, Señora Juana Molina de Fromen, was appointed to the Cabinet as Assistant Secretary of Public Instruction. The first participation of a woman in politics occurred in 1921 with the election of Señora Maria Cristina de Zapata as delegate from the Department of Chinadega to the Liberal Convention, and there have since been many others who have served in a similar capacity. There have also been several women appointed as consuls or vice-consuls to the United States, the first being the poet, Aurora Rostand, as consul in Detroit in 1922.

THE changing attitude toward women has, I believe, been helped also by the present economic conditions. The earthquake and fire that destroyed the capital in 1931, and the difficulties of the country in general, due to the world depression, have in numerous cases brought to women of the upper classes the necessity of going outside their homes to obtain a livelihood. Since the earthquake, many girls of good family have taken employment in government and other offices, as stenographers and clerks, and while this would formerly have been condemned by society it is now generally accepted.

All these changes seem to me to point to a definite awakening among the women in Nicaragua, as well as to a changing attitude among the men, which will undoubtedly have marked effect in improving the condition of the women and that of the country as a whole. I am confident that the independence which wider privileges and education will give her, added to the innate intelligence and attractiveness she already possesses, will make the Nicaraguan woman a notable factor in the future development of the country.

Proposed Plan May Limit Section 213

By Abbie Ellis Owen

A NEW administration plan to substitute payless furloughs up to ninety days for outright discharges of employees during the next two years where reductions in personnel are necessary under the reorganization program has been approved by the House Appropriations Committee as a rider on the Independent Offices bill. If not too long delayed in passage, it will apply to the 200 Navy Department employees who are listed for dismissal. However, even if these 200 are saved by the proposed furlough plan, there still remains the question of what recourse those women will have who were forced to resign in other departments to save their husbands' jobs in the Navy Department.

And now that we have reached what we hope may prove to be the turning point in the fight for married women in the Government service, it may be of interest to review briefly the development of the "married woman phobia," as it was recently termed by one of our leading educators, and the measure of success with which it has been combatted.

The so-called Economy Act which became a law in the last days of June, 1932, was a series of amendments (amendments Nos. 46 to 168) of the Act making appropriations for the legislative branch of the Government for the fiscal year 1932-33. Section 213, commonly referred to as the "married persons clause," reads as follows:

"In any reduction of personnel in any branch or service of the United States Government or the District of Columbia, married persons (living with husband or wife) employed in the class to be reduced, shall be dismissed before any other persons employed in such class are dismissed, if such husband or wife is also in the service of the United States or the District of Columbia. In the appointment of persons to the classified Civil Service, preference shall be given to persons other than married persons living with husband or wife, such husband or wife being in the service of the United States or the District of Columbia."

To find the causes impelling the passage of this law, it is necessary to look back as far as 1919, when the soldiers came back from the World War, and business and industry were not able to absorbed them as quickly as was expected. At that time three great veterans' organizations, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled American Veterans, took the stand that women should be returned to their firesides and their positions should be filled by soldiers, sailors, and marines. All three of these organizations at their conventions in 1931 adopted as part of their platforms clauses calling for the dismissal of married women in all kinds of public service. It is significant, however, that in the 1932 conventions of these organizations none of them included such a clause in its platform.

In 1931 the legislatures of six States, California, Delaware, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and New Jersey, gave consideration to bills which would forbid the employment of married women teachers. Fortunately all these proposals were defeated.

But that all this agitation was not without its effect upon Congress became evident early in the session which began in December, 1931. The recorded debate in the Senate on Section 213 shows that the motive on the part of most of those favoring it was a desire to "spread employment."

The passage of the Economy Act gave impetus to the movement to discharge married women workers. In February, 1932, the City Council of Pittsburgh attached an amendment to its 1932 budget, providing for the dismissal of married women from the city service, beginning the following April. This movement was squelched by the City Solicitor, who said the amendment was invalid and if enacted would be thrown out by the courts.

Early in January, 1933, the Kansas City Power & Light Company issued a general order establishing a new rule that no married woman would be employed thereafter by that Company, and that while married women then employed would not be dismissed, any woman employe who should marry after July 1, 1933, would be dismissed. It was stated that the order was issued to give more employment to men with dependents. However, the company refused to dismiss the 54 married women then in its employ, because "it would cut down efficiency" and because many of them have dependents.

In January, 1933, the Public School Board of Erie, Pa., enforced a rule prohibiting the employment of married women. In February, 1933, the General Assembly of Colorado considered a bill providing that "no compensable public position, State, county, city, or school district. shall be held by a married woman unless she be the head of a family as same is defined for tax exemption purposes." In February, 1933, Prof. Walter Williams of the University of Missouri, announced that "any woman employed in the University marrying after July 1, 1933, will automatically forfeit her position in the University." A bill was introduced in the California Legislature in February, 1933, designed to prohibit married women whose husbands are employed in the Civil Service from holding government positions.

In Maryland a movement which was begun in December, 1932, to force married women out of the municipal departments and schools of Baltimore was stopped by prompt action on the part of the Business and Professional Women's Council of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party with the assistance of the other women's organizations of the city. In Maryland, also, despite the existence of a law passed in 1925. guaranteeing Equal Rights to men and women in the teaching profession, a bill was introduced in the House of Delegates recently providing for the immediate dismissal of all the married women teachers in Calvert County.

In 1932 the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad "furloughed" its married women whose husbands were employed, and has continued that policy. Last February announcement was made by the Lehigh Valley Railroad that all married women in its employ whose husbands were also gainfully employed would at once be given "indeterminate furloughs" as a part of the policy of the road to "spread work." The Chesapeake & Ohio threatened to take similar action but so far has not done so.

On March 22, 1933, a bill to make it unlawful for both husband and wife to be employed by the Federal Government, the State, county, or municipal government if the husband's salary exceeded $2,000 a year, was defeated in the Delaware legislature through the efforts of the National Woman's Party. Several other bills which are on the legislative calendar aimed at married women working are likely to be defeated also.

Almost as soon as the ink was dry in President Hoover's signature to the Economy Act, the Federal Farm Board furloughed for an indefinite period approximately 50 married employees whose husbands or wives were in the Government service, a large proportion of these being women. Later at the Washington Navy Yard 47 men whose wives were in the employ of the Government were placed on indefinite leave of absence without pay. In neither of these groups was consideration given to efficiency. Employees with long experience and high efficiency ratings were among those furloughed. At the Government Printing Office and the Civil Service Commission, also, married workers were furloughed. Rumors of further dismissals from time to time and the circulation of questionnaires calling specifically for information as to the marital status of the employee have led to the resignation of many women holding responsible positions, whose services could not be spared without detriment to the Government service, in order to save the jobs of their husbands.

In recent months there has loomed up

the Administration's large reorganization plan, involving drastic reductions in personnel in many departments, with the certainty of the further application of Section 213 unless a change of policy should be made. With full knowledge of the havoc already wrought by this iniquitous law, the Government Workers' Council, with the strong and generous assistance of Woman's Party leaders, redoubled its efforts to obtain a "new deal" from the Administration.

The law in question applies not only to workers in the Government departments in Washington, but also to all branches of the classified Civil Service, which means that Government employes throughout the entire country are affected wherever reductions of personnel are called for. The Government Workers' Council includes in its membership workers in New York City, where a branch of the Council has been organized, and in Detroit, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. Letters from many other cities indicate the widespread interest that is being taken in the solution of the married women's problem.

The Council opposes Section 213 on the following grounds: (1) It is unfair and discriminatory class legislation; (2) It nullifies the Civil Service principle of appointment to and retention in Government service on the basis of merit only; (3) It does not promote economy but increases governmental costs by removing highly efficient employes and retaining less efficient ones; (4) It violates a fundamental principle of free government, the right of every adult citizen to compete with all other adult citizens on equal terms for paid employment; (5) It does not relieve unemployment but increases it, for every time a wife loses her job it means not only that her place in the office is not filled but that she must, in turn, dismiss those she has been employing for domestic service; (6) It is a purely sex discriminatory measure and not an economic one, because it does not provide for dismissal from employment of those who have other incomes perhaps much greater than the combined income of the couple one of whom is asked to give up her job; (7) It causes separations and divorces, prevents marriages, and encourages secret marriages and social evils.

News from the Field

Addresses Philadelphia Meeting

ARABEL W. CLARK, legislative chairman of the Pennsylvania State Teachers' League, was one of the principle speakers at a meeting of Pennsylvania members and friends of the National Woman's Party, held at the College Club, Philadelphia, on May 12. Miss Clark said in part:

"Being a teacher, my thoughts naturally review educational matters here in our own city of Philadelphia. Out of fifteen members of the Board of Education, we have fourteen men and one woman; we have one city superintendent and four associates—all men; we have ten district superintendents, nine men and one woman. In the State capitol, where our destinies are largely shaped and fashioned, we find in the House of Representatives two hundred and two men and two women, while in the Senate not a single woman is to be found among the fifty members.

"Generally throughout the State men and women teachers, engrossed in like duties, backed by the same training, motivated by the same activites, governed by the same influences, do not receive the same pay checks. It is invariably the woman who gets the meager portion. In certain local spots, where compensation is the same, promotions are granted largely to men.

"Because most teachers are women, the teacher cause is instictively a woman's cause and our minds must center upon a remedy for the social discrimination that exists everywhere between men and women.

"Recognition will not be handed out on the proverbial silver platter. Women must fight for the raising of their own status. It must start by forcing a finer, higher type of woman into public life. More and better women must be found to fill elective positions. To this end the women in Pennsylvania need the National Woman's Party. It alone offers a substantial nucleus with a proven background of untiring effort and unselfish devotion to the cause of women. It has been said that it is only the insane who do not organize. We need the National Woman's Party, and we hope the National Woman's Party needs us."

Ellicott City Branch Reports Progress

THE newly organized Ellicott City Branch of the Maryland Branch, National Woman's Party, has already held three successful meetings and is planning to hold regular meetings hereafter on the first Thursday of each month from 2 to 4 P. M. The next meeting will be held on June 1 at the home of the corresponding secretary, Mrs. Frank Curtis, Ellicott City, Maryland.

Organization of the Ellicott City Branch was effected on April 20 at a luncheon meeting called by Mrs. Reuben Finnell, Howard County chairman.

The officers of the Ellicott City Branch are: President, Mrs. G. Ray Helm; recording secretary, Mrs. Raymond Curtis; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Frank Curtis; treasurer, Mrs. Edward Pfeiffer.

An Unanimous Vote Expected

ANN CARTER, Texas member of the Congressional Committee of the National Woman's Party; Rena Maverick Green, State chairman of the Texas Branch of the Woman's Party; Mrs. C. H. Hendry of Beaumont and representatives of practically every organized group of women in the State, including the Woman's Club, the Council of Jewish Women, the Woman's Missionary Societies of the Protestant churches, "Sisters of the Temple," Ladies' Auxiliary of the Synagogue, Y. W. C. A., the Christian Science Reader, the Federated Music Clubs, a National Sorority, the Business and Professional Club, and the Altrusa Club, are working hard to secure a solid vote in the House of Representatives for H. R. 3673.

Representative Dies, the only member from Texas on the Immigration Committee, is one of the strongest supporters of the bill in Congress and did much to secure a favorable report

Mrs. Hilles Honor Guest

THE annual meeting of the Michigan Branch of the National Woman's Party was held at the Women's City Club, Detroit, Michigan, on May 12.

Florence Bayard Hilles, Chairman of the National Council of the Woman's Party, was the guest of honor.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Chairman, Lucia V. Grimes of Detroit; first vice-chairman, Mary Brumfield of Royal Oak; second vice-chairman, May Ross of Lansing; third vice-chairman, Mrs. W. O. Stevens of Bloomfield Hills; recording secretary, Margaret Cameron of Detroit; corresponding secretary, Bess M. Garner of Highland Park; treasurer, Olive Hurlburt of Detroit; directors, Phoebe C. Munnecke, Rilla A. Nelson and Emma A. Fox of Detroit.

B. and P. Council Plans Meeting

THE Business and Professional Women's Council of the Maryland Branch, National Woman's Party, will hold its annual open-air supper party on June 6 at 6.30 P. M. at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Donald R. Hooker, 1016 St. George's Road, Roland Park, Maryland.

Ida I. Kloze, president of the Council, will conduct the meeting, which will be addressed by a number of speakers.

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